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EXAMINER	
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2441	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/683,918	POTTER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nicholas Taylor	2441	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *18 September 2008*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-42* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-42* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *10 October 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-42 have been presented for examination and are rejected.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed September 18th, 2008 have been fully considered but they are deemed not persuasive.

3. In the remarks, applicant argued in substance that:

(A) The prior art of Aura does not teach the claimed "accounting record." Instead, Aura provides a credential that is transmitted by a base station. The AAA server is separate and does not directly transmit to the client. Also, the claimed credential cannot equate to an accounting record because logging a credential with secret information would be inherently insecure and thus teaches away from the invention. Lastly, Aura fails to teach logging the record.

As to point (A), the base station in Aura acts an authentication, authorization, and accounting server that provides "services for authenticating access, and any other computer or service that makes the decision of allowing or denying access to the network" including managing authorization and accounting (col. 4, lines 48-55). The base station provides these services to a the requesting client (see col. 5, lines 1-25

and 58-65, and col. 6, lines 34-49) and may in the process pull accounting records from foreign, external servers (see col. 8, lines 52-55).

As to the argument that using a secret accounting record teaches away from the use of logging, it is noted that the use of logging does not preclude using secure or otherwise privileged information. Further, "[a]rguments that the alleged anticipatory prior art is nonanalogous art or teaches away from the invention… [are] not germane' to a rejection under section 102" (See MPEP § 2131.05). Finally, Aura causes the accounting record to be logged in responding to the client request (see, e.g., col. 5, lines 1-30).

(B) The prior art of Aura does not teach dependent claim 2 which states that client obtains the account record from an external resource. The grant of access that Aura obtains from the external server would not be understood to be the claimed account record.

As to point (B), Applicant's argued dependent claim language does not define or limit the structure or composition of the transmitted accounting record. When given a reasonable interpretation, Aura transmits a record used for accounting that is retrieved from an external resource (see, e.g., col. 10, lines 1-34, fig. 3 steps 312 and 314 and col. 8, lines 45-68).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10-12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 27-29, 31, 32, 34, 37, 38, 41, and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Aura (U.S. Patent 6,947,725).

6. As per claim 1, Aura teaches a method for improving service accounting in a network, the method comprising the steps of:

in response to a first authentication, authorization, and accounting server receiving a request to authenticate and authorize a client, (Aura, col. 4, line 48 to col. 5, line 25; see fig. 2 and 3 architecture; see, e.g., fig. 1 step 122 which may also include pulling additional information via step 140; see col. 7, lines 42-48 and fig. 2, step 204)

said first server obtaining an accounting record for the client and said first server sending an authorization accept message that includes the accounting record within the message; (Aura, col. 5, lines 14-30; fig. 2, item 214 and fig. 3, item 316)

causing the accounting record to be logged; and (Aura, col. 5, lines 1-30)

a second authentication, authorization, and accounting server receiving, subsequent to the sending, a start session message that includes the accounting record (Aura, col 5, lines 28-30; col. 6, lines 34-49; and see fig. 2, event 206 or fig. 3, item 320; see also fig. 1 item 104).

7. As per claim 2, Aura teaches the system further comprising the step of obtaining the accounting record for the client from an external resource (Aura, see, e.g., col. 10, lines 1-34, fig. 3 steps 312 and 314 and col. 8, lines 45-68).

8. As per claim 4, Aura teaches the system further wherein the client is selected from the group consisting of a wireless network client, a wired network client, and a dial up client (Aura, col. 4, lines 12-31).

9. As per claim 6, Aura teaches the system further wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on an authentication, authorization, and accounting server (Aura, col. 5, lines 1-30).

10. As per claim 7, Aura teaches the system further wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on a network device (Aura, col. 5, lines 1-30).

11. As per claim 10, Aura teaches the system further wherein the accounting record comprises a handle to a second accounting record (Aura, see, e.g., escalating stage multiple account record access described in col. 7, line 42 to col. 8, line 24).

12. As per claim 11, Aura teaches the system further comprising the steps of:

retrieving the second accounting record using the handle to the second accounting record; and causing the second accounting record to be logged (Aura, see, e.g., escalating stage multiple account record access described in col. 7, line 42 to col. 8, line 24).

13. As per claim 12, Aura teaches the system further wherein the accounting record comprises data in a plurality of attribute-value pairs (Aura, see, e.g., record format of col. 5, lines 39-65).

14. As per claim 14, Aura teaches the system further wherein a particular data set is used in the step of authenticating and authorizing and the accounting record comprises said particular data set (Aura, see, e.g., record format of col. 5, lines 39-65).

15. As per claim 15, Aura teaches a method for improving service accounting in a network, the method comprising the steps of:

in response to a client sending an authentication and authorization request to a first authentication, authorization, and accounting server, (Aura, col. 4, line 48 to col. 5,

line 25; see fig. 2 and 3 architecture; see, e.g., fig. 1 step 122 which may also include pulling additional information via step 140; see col. 7, lines 42-48 and fig. 2, step 204)

receiving, from said first server, an accounting record in an authorization accept message; (Aura, col. 5, lines 14-30; fig. 2, item 214 and fig. 3, item 316)

causing the accounting record to be logged; and (Aura, col. 5, lines 1-30)

the client sending to a second authentication, authorization, and accounting server, subsequent to sending the authorization request, a start session message that includes the accounting record (Aura, col 5, lines 28-30; col. 6, lines 34-49; and see fig. 2, event 206 or fig. 3, item 320; see also fig. 1 item 104).

16. As per claim 17, Aura teaches the system further wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on an authentication, authorization, and accounting server (Aura, col. 5, lines 1-30).

17. As per claims 18, 19, and 21-34, Aura teaches the system further comprising a computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in the parent claim (Aura, col. 2, lines 10-25 and col. 16, lines 47-56).

18. As per claim 37, Aura teaches the system further wherein said first server and said second server are the same authentication, authorization, and accounting server.

(Aura, see, e.g., figs. 1 and 2 and col. 7, lines 4-48).

19. As per claim 38, Aura teaches the system further wherein said first server and said second server are different load balanced servers (Aura, see, e.g., figs. 1 and 2 and col. 7, lines 4-48).

20. As per claim 41, Aura teaches the system further comprising a computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 37 (Aura, col. 2, lines 10-25 and col. 16, lines 47-56).

21. As per claim 42, Aura teaches the system further comprising a computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 38 (Aura, col. 2, lines 10-25 and col. 16, lines 47-56).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

22. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

23. Claims 3 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aura (U.S. Patent 6,947,725) and Wang et al. (U.S. PGPub 2003/0035409).

24. As per claim 3, Aura teaches the above, yet fails to teach the step of obtaining the accounting record for the client from a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol directory.

Wang teaches a wireless service gateway using an AAA server that implements the lightweight directory access protocol (Wang, paragraphs 0109-0115, 0186-0187, and fig. 2 structure).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have combined Aura and Wang to provide the LDAP protocol-based account records in the system of Aura, because doing so would provide additional protocol support for passing data between network nodes (Aura, see fig. 3 transmissions). Further, the use of the LDAP protocol in Aura would combine several well-known elements in a manner that one skilled in the art could have combined using known methods that yield predictable results.

25. As per claim 20, Aura-Wang teaches the system further comprising a computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in the parent claim (Aura, col. 2, lines 10-25).

26. Claims 5, 8, 9, 13, 16, 22, 25, 26, 30, 33, 35, 36, 39, and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aura (U.S. Patent 6,947,725) and Barna et al. (U.S. PGPub 2002/0046277).

27. As per claim 5, Aura teaches the above, yet fails to teach the system further wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on a dedicated logging device.

Barna teaches a logging system for tracking mobile stations in an AAA system that includes a dedicated network logging device (see, e.g., paragraph 0024 and fig. 1 PPS server) with a session start and stop log entry (see, e.g., session start log entry mechanism of paragraphs 0029, 0030, and 0037), while using the RADIUS protocol (paragraph 0045).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have combined Aura and Barna to provide the RADIUS logging of Barna in the system of Aura, because doing so would enable the important and account count of the network data transferred which would otherwise be impossible in conventional AAA systems (see Barna, paragraphs 0005-0008). Further, the use of the RADIUS protocol and session logging in Aura would combine several well-known elements (e.g., established network protocols and transaction logging techniques) in a manner that one skilled in the art could have combined using known methods that would yield predictable results.

28. As per claim 22, Aura-Barna teaches the system further comprising a computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in the parent claim (Aura, col. 2, lines 10-25).

29. As per claim 8 Aura teaches the above, yet fails to teach the system further wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises logging the accounting record with a session start log entry.

Barna teaches a logging system for tracking mobile stations in an AAA system that includes a dedicated network logging device (see, e.g., paragraph 0024 and fig. 1 PPS server) with a session start and stop log entry (see, e.g., session start log entry mechanism of paragraphs 0029, 0030, and 0037), while using the RADIUS protocol (paragraph 0045).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have combined Aura and Barna to provide the RADIUS logging of Barna in the system of Aura, because doing so would enable the important and account count of the network data transferred which would otherwise be impossible in conventional AAA systems (see Barna, paragraphs 0005-0008). Further, the use of the RADIUS protocol and session logging in Aura would combine several well-known elements (e.g., established network protocols and transaction logging techniques) in a manner that one skilled in the art could have combined using known methods that would yield predictable results.

30. As per claim 25, Aura-Barna teaches the system further comprising a computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in the parent claim (Aura, col. 2, lines 10-25).

31. As per claim 9, Aura teaches the above, yet fails to teach the system further wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises logging the accounting record with a session stop log entry.

Barna teaches a logging system for tracking mobile stations in an AAA system that includes a dedicated network logging device (see, e.g., paragraph 0024 and fig. 1 PPS server) with a session start and stop log entry (see, e.g., session start log entry mechanism of paragraphs 0029, 0030, and 0037), while using the RADIUS protocol (paragraph 0045).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have combined Aura and Barna to provide the RADIUS logging of Barna in the system of Aura, because doing so would enable the important and account count of the network data transferred which would otherwise be impossible in conventional AAA systems (see Barna, paragraphs 0005-0008). Further, the use of the RADIUS protocol and session logging in Aura would combine several well-known elements (e.g., established network protocols and transaction logging techniques) in a

manner that one skilled in the art could have combined using known methods that would yield predictable results.

32. As per claim 26, Aura-Barna teaches the system further comprising a computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in the parent claim (Aura, col. 2, lines 10-25).

33. As per claim 13, Aura teaches the above, yet fails to teach the system further wherein the step of said first server sending an authorization accept message that includes the accounting record and the step of said second server receiving a start session message that includes the accounting record are performed in a protocol selected from the group consisting of Remote Authentication Dial In User Service, Terminal Access Controller Access Control System, Diameter, and Security Assertion Markup Language.

Barna teaches a logging system for tracking mobile stations in an AAA system that includes a dedicated network logging device (see, e.g., paragraph 0024 and fig. 1 PPS server) with a session start and stop log entry (see, e.g., session start log entry mechanism of paragraphs 0029, 0030, and 0037), while using the RADIUS protocol (paragraph 0045).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have combined Aura and Barna to provide the RADIUS logging

of Barna in the system of Aura, because doing so would enable the important and account count of the network data transferred which would otherwise be impossible in conventional AAA systems (see Barna, paragraphs 0005-0008). Further, the use of the RADIUS protocol and session logging in Aura would combine several well-known elements (e.g., established network protocols and transaction logging techniques) in a manner that one skilled in the art could have combined using known methods that would yield predictable results.

34. As per claim 30, Aura-Barna teaches the system further comprising a computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in the parent claim (Aura, col. 2, lines 10-25).

35. As per claim 16, Aura teaches the above, yet fails to teach the system further wherein the step of causing to be logged comprises causing the accounting record to be logged on a dedicated logging device.

Barna teaches a logging system for tracking mobile stations in an AAA system that includes a dedicated network logging device (see, e.g., paragraph 0024 and fig. 1 PPS server) with a session start and stop log entry (see, e.g., session start log entry mechanism of paragraphs 0029, 0030, and 0037), while using the RADIUS protocol (paragraph 0045).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have combined Aura and Barna to provide the RADIUS logging of Barna in the system of Aura, because doing so would enable the important and account count of the network data transferred which would otherwise be impossible in conventional AAA systems (see Barna, paragraphs 0005-0008). Further, the use of the RADIUS protocol and session logging in Aura would combine several well-known elements (e.g., established network protocols and transaction logging techniques) in a manner that one skilled in the art could have combined using known methods that would yield predictable results.

36. As per claim 33, Aura-Barna teaches the system further comprising a computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in the parent claim (Aura, col. 2, lines 10-25).

37. As per claim 35, Aura teaches the above, yet fails to teach the system further comprising:

wherein the authorization accept message and the start session message conform to the Remote Authentication Dial In User Server (RADIUS) protocol.

Barna teaches a logging system for tracking mobile stations in an AAA system that includes a dedicated network logging device (see, e.g., paragraph 0024 and fig. 1 PPS server) with a session start and stop log entry (see, e.g., session start log entry

mechanism of paragraphs 0029, 0030, and 0037), while using the RADIUS protocol (paragraph 0045).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have combined Aura and Barna to provide the RADIUS logging of Barna in the system of Aura, because doing so would enable the important and account count of the network data transferred which would otherwise be impossible in conventional AAA systems (see Barna, paragraphs 0005-0008). Further, the use of the RADIUS protocol and session logging in Aura would combine several well-known elements (e.g., established network protocols and transaction logging techniques) in a manner that one skilled in the art could have combined using known methods that would yield predictable results.

38. As per claim 36, Aura teaches the above, yet fails to teach the system further comprising:

wherein the authorization accept message and the start session message conform to the Remote Authentication Dial In User Service (RADIUS) protocol.

Barna teaches a logging system for tracking mobile stations in an AAA system that includes a dedicated network logging device (see, e.g., paragraph 0024 and fig. 1 PPS server) with a session start and stop log entry (see, e.g., session start log entry mechanism of paragraphs 0029, 0030, and 0037), while using the RADIUS protocol (paragraph 0045).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have combined Aura and Barna to provide the RADIUS logging of Barna in the system of Aura, because doing so would enable the important and account count of the network data transferred which would otherwise be impossible in conventional AAA systems (see Barna, paragraphs 0005-0008). Further, the use of the RADIUS protocol and session logging in Aura would combine several well-known elements (e.g., established network protocols and transaction logging techniques) in a manner that one skilled in the art could have combined using known methods that would yield predictable results.

39. As per claim 39, Aura-Barna teaches the system further comprising a computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 35 (Aura, col. 2, lines 10-25 and col. 16, lines 47-56).

40. As per claim 40, Aura-Barna teaches the system further comprising a computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 36 (Aura, col. 2, lines 10-25 and col. 16, lines 47-56).

Conclusion

41. Applicant's amendment necessitated any new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas Taylor whose telephone number is (571) 272-3889. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00am to 5:30pm, with alternating Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on (571) 272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/NT/
Nicholas Taylor
Examiner
Art Unit 2441

/Larry D Donaghue/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2454